

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A reagent for assaying lipid comprising an esterase, a surfactant and an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of thiodiglycol and methionine.

2. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the esterase is at least one esterase selected from the group consisting of a lipase and a cholesterol esterase.

3. (original): The reagent according to claim 2, wherein the lipase is at least one lipase selected from the group consisting of lipoprotein lipase, phospholipase, pancreatic lipase, hepatic triacylglycerol lipase , glycolipid-degrading lipase, sphingolipid-degrading lipase and hormone-sensitive lipase.

4. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant and an amphoteric surfactant.

5. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is a surfactant having a polyoxyethylene group.

6. (original): The reagent according to claim 5, wherein the surfactant is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene isooctylphenyl ether, polyoxyethylene secondary alkyl ether, and polyoxyethylene octylphenyl ether.

7. (canceled).

8. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is present at a concentration of 1-100 mM.

9. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is present at a concentration of 1-10 mM.

10. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the reagent is used for assaying neutral fat.

11. (currently amended): The reagent according to claim 10, wherein the reagent for assaying ~~natural~~ neutral fat comprises a first reagent composition and a second reagent composition, the first reagent composition comprising ATP, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and glycerol kinase; and the second reagent composition comprising an esterase, a surfactant, an antioxidant, glucose, NAD(P) and an ADP-dependent hexokinase.

12. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the reagent is used for assaying total cholesterol .

13. (original): The reagent according to claim 12, wherein the reagent for assaying total cholesterol comprises a first reagent composition and a second reagent composition, the first reagent composition comprising an esterase, a surfactant, an antioxidant and NAD(P); and the second reagent composition comprising a cholesterol dehydrogenase.

14. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the reagent is used for assaying high-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

15. (original): The reagent according to claim 14, wherein the reagent for assaying high-density lipoprotein cholesterol comprises a first reagent composition and a second reagent composition, the first reagent composition comprising NAD(P); and the second reagent composition comprising an esterase, a surfactant, an antioxidant and a cholesterol dehydrogenase.

16. (original): The reagent according to claim 1, wherein the reagent is used for assaying low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

17. (currently amended): The reagent according to claim 16, wherein the reagent for assaying low-density lipoprotein cholesterol comprises a first reagent composition and a second reagent composition, the first reagent composition comprising an esterase, a surfactant, an antioxidant, NAD(P), and compounds inhibiting the reaction between the esterase and LDL; ~~an LDL reaction inhibitor~~; and the second reagent composition comprising a cholesterol dehydrogenase.

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (canceled).

21. (new): The reagent according to claim 17, wherein said compounds is selected from the group consisting of a calyx arene sulfate, sucrose, bovine serum albumin, calyx arenas, polyanions, polyethylene glycol and combinations of polyanions and divalent cations.

22. (new): A reagent for assaying lipid comprising an esterase, a surfactant, and a thioether antioxidant.